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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 5, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 30 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 35 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 614 billion ton-miles, 1.4 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 30 totaled 446,394 cars, 8.9 percent below 1979, but 1.7 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 16.3 percent in the East, 6.5 percent in the South, and 5.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 3,162 cars, or 2.8 percent, and grain showed an increase of 4,090 cars, or 14.0 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 23 totaled 31,570 cars, down 14.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 57,151 trailers and/or containers, 11.7 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 34 weeks of the year was 1,086,345 cars, 10.7 percent lower than last year, and 1,979,005 trailers and/or containers, down 7.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/30/80:

	Loadings in Week ended August 30, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	33,205	I 4,090	14.0	I 322	1.0
Other farm products	3,651	I 507	16.1	D 252	6.5
Metallic ores	28,344	D 12,232	30.1	I 393	1.4
Coal	117,074	I 3,162	2.8	D 292	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,511	D 3,828	20.9	D 223	1.5
Nonmetallic minerals	15,407	D 1,531	9.0	D 848	5.2
Grain mill products	17,798	D 310	1.7	I 663	3.9
Food and kindred products	19,135	D 258	1.3	I 596	3.2
Primary forest products	19,630	D 1,481	7.0	D 255	1.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	10,141	D 3,143	23.7	I 599	6.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,661	D 1,574	7.1	I 524	2.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,311	D 259	0.9	I 2,379	9.2
Petroleum products	5,442	D 814	13.0	D 2	0.0
Stone, clay and glass products	16,202	D 3,366	17.2	I 210	1.3
Coke	4,104	D 2,073	33.6	I 219	5.6
Metals and products	14,498	D 4,744	24.7	I 1,256	9.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	12,877	D 5,827	31.2	D 105	0.8
Waste and scrap materials	11,267	D 2,688	19.3	I 264	2.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,646	D 1,712	12.8	I 782	7.2
All other carloads	42,251	D 5,135	10.8	I 1,078	2.6
LCL Traffic	239	D 190	44.3	I 25	11.7
Total Cars Loaded	446,394	D 43,406	8.9	I 7,333	1.7
Corresponding week of 1979	489,800				

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (35 weeks)	15,200,866	16,028,751	D	5.2
Estimated Revenue Ton-Miles (in billions):				
34 weeks cumulative	595.3 (Revised)	586.8	I	1.4
Week ended August 30	18.3	18.4	D	1.0
35 weeks cumulative	613.5	605.2	I	1.4

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